## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AGRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 /039 W

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R 060230Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4526
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, RP
SUBJECT: CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES SENDING TRADE
MISSION TO HANOI

- 1. ON JANUARY 5, THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY THAT THE PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CCP) HAD ACCEPTED AN INVITATION DELIVERED BY THRAN HOY CHOUNG, CHARGE DE AFFAIRS OF THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN MANILA, FOR A PHILIPPINE TRADE MISSION TO VISIT HANOI.
- 2. MR. ROSARIO DE LA CUESTA, SECRETARY AND TREASURER OF THE CCP CONFIRMED THE REPORTS TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER ON THE SAME DATE AND STATED THAT THE INVITATION IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT IS THE FIRST INVITATION OF ITS KIND THAT AN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN), HAS RECEIVED FROM THE VIETNAMESE. HE SAID THAT THE MISSION IS ALSO IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEELS THAT THERE IS A GOOD POSSIBILITY TO MARKET SOME SUGAR AND COCONUT OIL IN VIETNAM. HE SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD SHOWN MUCH INTEREST IN SUCH PURCHASES AND MILD INTEREST IN PHILIPPINE IRON, STEEL, FERTILIZERS, AND CHEMICALS. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PHILIPPINES MIGHT ALSO FIND IN VIETNAM AN INEXPENSIVE SOURCE FOR PHOSPHATE AND ANTHRACITE COAL.

3. MR. DE LA CUESTA SAID THE MISSION WOULD NUMBER ABOUT 12 PEOPLE REPRESENTING ALL OF THE PHILIPPINE INDUSTRIES WHICH MAY HAVE SOME HOPE FOR BUSINESS IN VIETNAM. HE STRESSED THAT SINCE THIS WAS THE FIRST TRIP AND EXPLORATORY IN NATURE, HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ESTIMATE THE VOLUME OF BUSINESS THAT COULD BE GENERATED.

4. COMMENT. THE ABOVE IS IN LINE WITH THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT POLICY OF DIVERSIFYING ITS MARKETS AND SOURCES OF SUPPLY, IT IS ESPECAILLY INTERESTING IN REGARD TO POSSIBLE PHOSPHATE PURCHASES, BECAUSE THESE COULD FIT IN WITH CERTAIN ASEAN PLANS. ONE ASEAN PROJECT IS TO BUILD A SUPER PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER PLANT, BUT LOCATING AN INEXPENSIVE SUPPLY OF PHOSPHATE HAS BEEN A PROBLEM. SULLIVAN

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